

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance the prosecution of this case.

1. Applicants hereby reiterate their claim to the priority of their German application of 13 February 2003. The priority claims was not acknowledged in the PTOL-326 form and such acknowledgement is now requested.

2. Applicants have detected an error in the filing receipt where the assignee is listed as "Hermann Hötten Maschinenbau GmbH". The correct name of the assignee is "Hötten Maschinenbau GmbH" as indicated in the assignment recordal document. Correction of the filing receipt and the Patent Office records is requested. The Examiner is respectfully asked to let the undersigned know that the correction has been made.

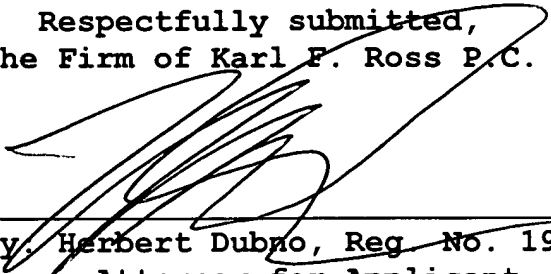
3. Pursuant to the requirement for restriction, Applicant provisionally elects Group I to which claims 1 to 5, 16 and 17 are directed, namely, the method.

4. The requirement for restriction is respectfully traversed. The Examiner has indicated that the restriction requirement is proper because the process as claimed can be practiced without a chain, etc. However, claim 6, the independent apparatus claim contains none of the limitations found to be unnecessary by the Examiner for the practice of the processes as claimed. Indeed, if one compares claim 1 with claim 6, side by side it is impossible to believe that the method could be practiced by anything but the apparatus of claim 6 nor, as claimed, could the apparatus of claim 6 be used for the practice of anything but the method.

In other words, the process as claimed cannot be practiced by a materially different apparatus and the apparatus as claimed at least as far as claim 6 is concerned, cannot be used to practice another or materially different process.

Since the grounds which are available for restricting between process and apparatus are not applicable to the present case, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn and an action given on the merits of all of the claims in the case.

Respectfully submitted,  
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